[12th September 1959

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, is it a fact that minor spare parts which are required for day-to-day use are purchased from local dealers without even inviting tenders? What prevents this Government from having them imported from foreign countries, which will mean lesser cost to the Government?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : As regards the first part, I wish we could do it. In fact we would save wastage of our vehicles. But under the rules, we have got to call for limited tenders, and therefore even repairs to vehicles are being greatly delayed. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, already we have applied for import licences for Rs. 3·3 lakhs worth of spare parts from the Government of India.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY : Sir, I rise to a point of order. This is a question on which the hon. Members have interest and have a right to put supplementaries. Otherwise, except those who have given notice of the question, the other Members are reduced to mere listeners instead of being active participants.

MR. SPEAKER : In the very beginning to-day, I put this procedure to the House and the House approved it. So, I have been giving the chance of putting two supplementaries to the hon. Member who has put the question. The hon. Member Sri T. S. Ramaswamy did not raise any objection in the beginning when I sought the approval of the House for this procedure. The only hon. Member who raised an objection was Sri V. K. Kothandaraman and I answered him. Inasmuch as the hon. Member Sri Ramaswamy did not raise any objection at that time it only meant that he had agreed to the procedure. How can the hon. Member raise the question now?

Atomic Minerals

* 360 *Q.*—SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI (on behalf of SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many parties of the Atomic Energy Commission, Bangalore, are working in our State in search of Atomic minerals?

(*b*) what are the places where successful drilling operations are being carried out; and

(*c*) what is the progress, if any, so far made at Kulampatti village, Sankaridrug taluk, Salem district?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) At present 8 parties of the Atomic Energy Commission are engaged in the search for Atomic Energy Minerals in Salem, Coimbatore, Kanyakumari, Nilgiris and Madurai districts of this State.

(*b*) & (*c*) Exploratory drilling has recently been started only in Kullampatti area, Sankaridrug taluk, Salem district.